

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL ON GIBRALTAR

1. INCREASINGLY INFLUENTIAL MADRID MORNING EL PAIS
FEATURED EDITORIAL SATURDAY TITLED "GIBRALTAR, A STRATEGIC
PROBLEM." EXCERPTS:

2. "DAVID OWEN, SECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, COMES
TO MADRID ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN THE FIRST DAYS OF
SEPTEMBER ... ANGLO-SPANISH RELATIONS, ON AN OFFICIAL
AND STATE LEVEL, ARE NOT, AS THEY HAVE ALMOST NEVER BEEN,
IN A MOMENT OF EAGER EXPECTATION, DESPITE THE STRONG
PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL MOVEMENTS IN WHICH THE SPANISH
AND BRITISH PEOPLES GET ALONG SO WELL. THE REASON FOR
THIS, IN LARGE MEASURES, GIBRALTAR ...

3. "A SPAIN WHICH HAS ASKED TO JOIN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY FINDS IT SAD TO HAVE TO IMPOSE SUCH A HARD
ISOLATION ON A PEOPLE SENTIMENTALLY SO CLOSELY LINKED
TO THE SPANISH AREA OF CAMPO DE GIBRALTAR ...

4. "GREAT BRITAIN JUSTIFIES ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS ON
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THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION,
EXERCISED BY THE GIBRALTAR PEOPLE IN THE REFERENDUM
FAVORABLE TO THE COLONIAL STATUS QUO. SPAIN CLAIMS
THE SAME SOVEREIGNTY ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLE
OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AFFIRMED BY A RESOUNDING
RESOLUTION OF THE UN. THE BRITISH ARGUMENT CARRIES
AND EVIDENT MORAL FORCE, BECAUSE IT COMES WRAPPED IN

PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS TO WHICH DEMOCRATIC STATES CANNOT BE INDIFFERENT ...

5. "THE COLONIAL SITUATION LIES IN THE "MORTGAGE" REPRESENTED BY THE BRITISH PRESENCE IN GIBRALTAR, WITH ALL ITS POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CONSEQUENCES.

6. "RECENTLY, A SPANISH REPORTER SUCCEEDED IN EXTRACTING FROM SIR JOSHUA LOGAN, MAYOR OF GIBRALTAR, SOME REVEALING STATEMENTS: BRITISH NUCLEAR SUBMARINES PERIODICALLY VISIT THE ROCK. THIS HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO LIGHT AS YET BY THE SPANISH DIPLOMATIC AND NAVAL AUTHORITIES. THE FACT DEMONSTRATES, NONE-THELESS, THAT THE COLONIZATION OF GIBRALTAR IS ALSO OF A STRATEGIC NATURE AND REPRESENTS A FULL MORTGAGE ON SPANISH SECURITY. IT DID NOT FAIL TO ENTER IN THE LAST CONSIDERATIONS OF NAVAL SCIENCE THE SUPREME IMPORTANCE OF THE STRAITS AND THE TREMENDOUS POLITICAL POWER WHICH THEY GIVE TO HE WHO CONTROLS THEM; NEITHER DID IT FAIL TO ENTER IN SOVIET NAVAL DOCTRINE, WHOSE PRIORITY OBJECTIVE IS THE DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY NUCLEAR SUBMARINES AND OF IMPORTANT TARGETS ON LAND. THE BAD PART IS THAT THE DESTRUCTION OF A NUCLEAR SUBMARINE OR ITS BASE IN GIBRALTAR WILL BRING WITH IT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SOUTHERN CADIZ AREA.

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7. "RECENTLY, DEPUTIES FROM CADIZ MET AND REQUESTED THE LIFTING OF THE PENALTIES WHICH THE ENCLOSURE OF GIBRALTAR IMPOSES ON ITS CITIZENS. THAT CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THIS OTHER: THE CITIZENS OF GIBRALTAR SHOULD BE SENSITIVE TO THE SPANISH NECESSITY FOR SECURITY AND KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL ITS RIGHTS AND ADVANTAGES OF GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS WILL BE RESPECTED.

8. "FOR THIS, THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN MR. OWEN AND SR. OREJA SHOULD NOT BASE THEMSELVES SOLEY ON THE QUID PRO QUO OF THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AND THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY, BUT TO THIS PAIR SHOULD BE ADDED THE THEME OF STRATEGIC SECURITY. AMONG OTHER REASONS BECAUSE, IN THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, THE SECURITY OF SPAIN AND THAT OF GREAT BRITAIN, AS WELL AS THAT OF WESTERN EUROPE, ARE, IN GREAT MEASURE, INSEPARABLE." STABLER

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